

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS  
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES

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Date: June 9, 2020  
Time: 10:00am  
Place: Town Hall  
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others in participating: Eileen Vining, Steve Hayward(National Grid), Nick Keene(Egremont Village Inn/The Barn), Laura Allen, Kathleen McGowan, Dan Smith(John Andrews Restaurant), Mary McGurn, Marj Wexler, Bruce Bernstein, Steve Cohen, Juliette Haas, Matt Kollmer, Lannon Killea, David Seligman.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the June 2, 2020 meeting were accepted with minor edits.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

At 10:04am the hearing was called to order on the request of National Grid and Verizon to place a new pole on Jug End Road to provide electric service to the new home being construction by Kathleen McGowan at 199 Jug End Road. The Board unanimously approved the request. Hearing closed at 10:06am.

The Board interviewed Matt Kollmer for the position of Alternate Building Inspector at the request of Building Inspector Ned Baldwin. The current alternate has given a verbal resignation. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Kollmer to the position.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

Mary McGurn asked the board to enforce the dog's on leash law at French Park and to install more adequate signage announcing that all dogs must be on leash in the Park if not in the confined dog park. The Board agreed to do so and will announce to the general public the pending enforcement.

NEW BUSINESS:

The conservation restriction between Greenagers and Appalachian Trail was unanimously approved by the Board. The restriction will protect open space, scenic vistas, farm and forest land, rare and endangered species and wetlands.

The Board, upon the recommendation of Highway Superintendent James Noe, appointed Christopher Guarda on a 30 day trial basis to fill the vacant position of alternate Transfer Station attendant. It was noted for the record that the Board usually conducts interviews before hiring, but in these exceptional times the Board will not do so for this position.

OLD BUSINESS:

David Seligman reported that both the Egremont Land Trust and the Egremont Conservation Commission support the Working Forest Initiative. The Town may be eligible for two grant programs. One requires the Town to be in the Forest Stewardship Program. The Town does have an outdated stewardship plan for Karner Brooke protection area. The grant funds will help the town inventory its

forest lands and then develop management plans. There are possible opportunities to make a profit from the sale of lumber. The Board designated the Conservation Commission as the town's agent for this initiative and directed David Seligman to move forward. Vice-Chairman Vermeulen offered her help.

A public announcement regarding the Transportation Grant received from MAPC is being drafted and will be sent out by the end of the week. Through this grant program the town should be able to track transportation needs of Egremont's residents.

The Board has had no formal response to its letter to Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation though the Director did call Chairman McGurn.

Council on Aging Chairman Bruce Bernstein and Selectboard Vice-Chairman Vermeulen are pursuing a grant to purchase a van. The grant is due June 30, awards will be announced in September or October and the van might be purchased in June of 2021.

#### COVID-19:

Dan Smith, John Andrews Restaurant, and Nick Keene, Egremont Village Inn/The Barn, have applied for outdoor seating as allowed under COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Commonwealth. The Board voted unanimously to approve the extension of the service of liquor in the outdoor areas designation by both restaurants. Temporary licenses, expiring November 1, 2020, will be issued. No outdoor music is allowed.

The Tennis Court reservation process will move to a self-reservation form at the courts on Monday, June 15, 2020 for at least a trial period. Though the process so far has been uneventful, there was an incident in which 7 people were on the courts at one time and the Police were called.

The playground will remain closed as the Board feels the town does not have the resources to conduct the necessary cleaning and sanitization required by guidelines. The Board will reconsider after Town Meeting.

Juliette Haas said that even though there was a complaint about someone being at the Transfer Station without a mask, she has not seen anyone there without a mask. The Board agreed that the construction and demolition bin, the swap shop, and the electronics shed will open for weekends only beginning June 20. The attendance will not take payments but will issue a charge slip and inform those dropping items that they must pay at Town Hall. If they don't pay, the Office Administrator will send a bill.

The Board agreed to keep the French Park trails closed to horse back riders for safety reasons as so many people are walking on the trails.

The Council on Aging has asked if they can hold their June 17 meeting at the pavilion. There will be no more than 8 people present. The Board approved this request. They will be reminded of the need to social distance and wear masks.

There has been no report on how the curbside pick-up at the Library has been going.

#### FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES/THINGS NOT TO FORGET:

The Board designated Jeff Lazarus and Rolfe Tessem to review the broadband agreement term sheet for the Town.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen is concerned that agenda for the upcoming Housing Committee meeting is too broad so discussion will get scattered. She feels they need a stronger direction.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will not meet during the week of June 15. The next meeting will take place on June 23 at 10am.

FY 21 BUDGET/TOWN MEETING:

The Board approved the following funding avenues for special articles on the town meeting warrant:

Article 4:	SBA	\$14,279	Raise & Appropriate
Article 5:	Fire Chief	\$20,000	Raise & Appropriate
Article 6:	OSHA	\$10,000	Raise & Appropriate
Article 7:	Pollinator	\$3,400	Raise & Appropriate
Article 8:	Cemeteries	\$6,000	Transfer from Cemetery PC (balance \$26,575.29)
Article 9:	French Park	\$14,500	Raise & Appropriate
Article 10:	Generator	\$117,000	Transfer from Free Cash
Article 11:	Blacktop	\$70,000	Transfer from Free Cash
Article 12:	Road repairs	\$100,000	Raise & Appropriate
Article 13:	MACRS	\$4,000	Raise & Appropriate
Article 14:	Restore books	\$1,000	Raise & appropriate
Article 15:	GASB 45	\$15,000	Transfer from Free Cash
Article 16:	Stabilization	\$10,000	Transfer from Free Cash

There is \$321,085 in Free Cash. The use of free cash spelled out above with leave just over \$109,000.

Meeting adjourned at 11:34am.

Mary Brazie,  
Office Administrator

minutes.20/jun9

*The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.*